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PHILIPPINES

CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MINDANAO

LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT AND PEACE (LEAP) PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Livelihood Enhancement and Peace, or LEAP Program is a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) – supported program of the Philippine government designed to assist former combatants of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) make the transition from guerillas to commercial-level farmers and fishermen.



With USAID support and other program partners, it has, since it started in July 1997 and through the current period, provided about 28,000 former MNLF combatants with technical assistance and training, agricultural and aquaculture production inputs, and post harvest equipment and support facilities.

Visit our website
<http://www.usaid-ph.gov>
keywords : LEAP, reintegration

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Through the period ending September 2005, the LEAP Program, with the support of other program partners, will have assisted about 28,000 former combatants throughout the conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. For the period November 2003 through September 2005, about 700 pre- and post-harvest equipment and facilities have been provided to MNLF communities. This type of assistance is intended to support the production activities of the participants to ensure that the harvested crop is of good quality so as to command a better market price. These facilities are provided to communities where agricultural development assistance, such as production inputs, has previously been provided to the former combatants.



The program continues to seek contributions from other Philippine government agencies, local governments, other donors, private firms, and the beneficiaries themselves for the implementation of LEAP activities.



In order to assist in bringing about greater trust between the Philippine government and the former combatants, the LEAP Program, to the maximum extent possible, involves personnel of Philippine government agencies such as the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), its partner agency, and local government units (LGUs) in the delivery of LEAP Program services.